

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on October 24, 2005.

No claims have been canceled, amended, or added. As a result, claims 1-28 remain pending in this application.

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants' remarks concerning the claims will be presented in the same order in which the Examiner presented them in the Office Action.

Rejection of Claims 1, 15, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as Anticipated by Liang

Claims 1, 15, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Liang et al. (U.S. 6,525,939).

The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/950,100, now U.S. Patent No. 6,671,172. With Applicants' "Amendment & Response Under 35 C.F.R. §1.111" dated February 18, 2003, which was filed in U.S. Serial No. 09/950,100, Applicants submitted declarations under 37 CFR §1.131 of Ben M. Broili and Mike S. Brazel, which swear behind Liang.

In view of the declarations, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1, 15, and 22 is now moot and should be withdrawn, and that claims 1, 15, and 22 should be allowable.

Rejection of Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as Unpatentable over Liang in view of Mira

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liang in view of Mira (U.S. 5,661,638).

In view of the earlier-submitted declarations under 37 CFR §1.131, which swear behind Liang, Applicants respectfully submit that the current rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn, and that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 26, and 27 should be allowable.

Rejection of Claims 9 and 10
under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as
Unpatentable over Liang

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liang.

In view of the earlier-submitted declarations under 37 CFR §1.131, which swear behind Liang, Applicants respectfully submit that the current rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn, and that claims 9 and 10 should be allowable.

Rejection of Claims 11-14
under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as
Unpatentable over Liang in view of
“Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art”

Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liang in view of “Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art.”

In view of the earlier-submitted declarations under 37 CFR §1.131, which swear behind Liang, Applicants respectfully submit that the current rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn, and that claims 11-14 should be allowable.

Rejection of Claims 4, 7, 8, 18, 21, 25, and 28
under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as
Unpatentable over Liang in view of Mira
and further in view of
“Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art”

Claims 4, 7, 8, 18, 21, 25, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liang in view of Mira and further in view of “Applicants’ Admitted Prior Art.”

In view of the earlier-submitted declarations under 37 CFR §1.131, which swear behind Liang, Applicants respectfully submit that the current rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn, and that claims 4, 7, 8, 18, 21, 25, and 28 should be allowable.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-28 are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney, Walter W. Nielsen (located in Phoenix, Arizona) at (602) 298-8920, or the below-signed attorney (located in Minneapolis, Minnesota) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL P. CARTER ET AL.

By their Representatives,
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Date Jan. 23, 2006

By Ann M. McCrackin
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 23rd day of January 2006.

Amy Moriarty
Name

[Signature]
Signature